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POL 14 VIET-S

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Action

MJA491 IM5121

FE

00 RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 5730 2540942
ZNR UUUUU
Info O 110935Z SEP 66
SS FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
G TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SP INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
SAH RUEKDA/DOD IMMEDIATE
L RUMJIRH/AMCONSUL HUE IMMEDIATE
H RUEKDA/JCS IMMEDIATE
SAL RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
IO RUALSO/ AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
P BT
NSC UNCLAS SAIGON 5730
NIR
NIC SEP 11
AID ELECTION SITUATION REPORT 1700 SEPTEMBER 11
RSR SAIGON

1966 SEP 11 AM 6 43

R

Saigon 5730

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Evan Dent DATE 12/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH: REVIEWER
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASED ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Pol 14 Viet-S

1. ELECTION ATMOSPHERE DESCRIBED IN SAIGON'S 5727 CONTINUED THROUGH THE AFTERNOON. VOTER TURNOUT SLACKENED SOMEWHAT DURING HEAT OF THE DAY BUT STEADY STREAM OF VOTERS CONTINUED GOING TO POLLS. EMBOFFS CHECKED POLLING PLACES NEAREST AN QUANG PAGODA (TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF UNIFIED BUDDHIST CHURCH) AND PHAT DIEM PARISH (FATHER HOANG QUYNH'S HOME PARISH). IF BOYCOTT CALL OF UBA AND QUYNH'S FRONT OF ALL RELIGIONS EFFECTIVE, THESE AREAS WOULD

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 5730 UNCLAS
HAVE BEEN HARD HIT. IN BOTH AREAS TURNOUT SEEMED GOOD, ELECTION OFFICIALS MANNING POLLING PLACES ESTIMATED THAT TOTALS WOULD AT LEAST MATCH MAY 30, 1965 TURNOUT. EMBOFF VISITED POLLING PLACES AROUND PHAT DIEM AS LATE AS 4:15 PM (FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER POLLS CLOSED) AND FOUND VOTERS STILL ARRIVING AND BEING TURNED AWAY.

2. SAIGON PERCENTAGES AS OF 3 PM WERE AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST DISTRICT: 53.9 PERCENT

SECOND DISTRICT: 61.3 PERCENT

THIRD DISTRICT: 53.9 PERCENT

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PHUOC LONG	85
AN GIANG	74
CHAU DOC	72
DINH TUONG	57
KIEN PHONG	83
PHONG DINH	66
VINH LONG	69
KIEN HOA	68
AN XUYEN	72
BAC LIEU	66
CHUONG THIEN	66
GO CONG	79
KIEN GIANG	67
KIEN TUONG	81
VINH BINH	73
BA XUYEN	73

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 5730 UNCLAS
(THESE FIGURES ARE GVN FIGURES SUPPLIED BY GOVERNMENT'S ELECTION CENTRAL)

3. ONE OF MOST INTERESTING VIET CONG INCIDENTS DURING DAY WAS MINING OF VEHICLE CARRYING BINH DUONG PROVINCE CHIEF AND THREE JOURNALISTS (TWO AMERICAN, ONE JAPANESE). ALL FOUR WERE LIGHTLY WOUNDED. ONE OF AMERICANS INVOLVED WAS DON OBERDORFER, KNIGHT NEWS SERVICE.

4. POLLS CLOSE AT 4 P.M. EXCEPT FOR SAIGON WHERE THEY WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 6 P.M.

5. BUDDHIST INSTITUTE CHAIRMAN THICH TAM CHAU REPORTEDLY BROADCAST A RADIO MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO THE "FAITHFUL" AT 2 P.M. FROM VUNG TAU URGING THEM TO VOTE. TEXT OF STATEMENT WILL BE TRANSMITTED WHEN AVAILABLE.
LODGE

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 7:02 A.M., SEPTEMBER 11.
PASSED WHITE HOUSE, CIA, USIA, NSA 7:02 A.M., SEPTEMBER 11.

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